

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, on April 14, 2008, I missed 3 recorded votes. I take my voting responsibility very seriously. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on recorded vote number 183, "yea" on recorded vote 184, and "yea" on recorded vote 185.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 1119. An act to amend title 36, United States Code, to revise the congressional charter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart of the United States of America, Incorporated, to authorize associate membership in the corporation for the spouse and siblings of a recipient of the Purple Heart medal.

H.J. Res. 70. Joint resolution congratulating the Army Reserve on its centennial, which will be formally celebrated on April 23, 2008, and commemorating the historic contributions of its veterans and continuing contributions of its soldiers to the vital national security interests and homeland defense missions of the United States.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 76. Concurrent resolution to make technical corrections in the enrollment of the bill S. 1858.

RECOGNIZING DAVIDSON COLLEGE WILDCATS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM ON THEIR TREMENDOUS SEASON

(Mr. WATT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Davidson College, President Tom Ross, Coach Bob McKillop, and the Davidson College Wildcats men's basketball team, which had one remarkable basketball season. Davidson College is one of a number of outstanding colleges and universities in my congressional district. The Wildcats basketball team finished its regular season undefeated in the Southern Conference, won the Southern Conference tournament, and went on to their third consecutive NCAA tournament appearance.

In the NCAA tournament, Davidson College delivered three stunning upsets, eliminating the Gonzaga Bulldogs, the Georgetown Hoyas, and the Wisconsin Badgers on their way to the Elite Eight. In the Midwest regional finals, the Wildcats gave a tremendous effort before ultimately falling to Kansas by 2 points. Kansas, of course, went on to win the National Championship. By any measure Davidson College was the Cinderella team of this year's NCAA tournament.

In a fitting tribute to his coaching and leadership, Coach Bob McKillop re-

ceived the Coach Clair Bee Award on April 7, honoring the NCAA Division I men's basketball coach who has made the most significant positive contribution to the sport during the year.

I wish Coach McKillop and his Cinderella Davidson Wildcats continued success. I am fortunate to represent Davidson College and their outstanding scholars and athletes in Congress. We'll be back next year.

WELCOME POPE BENEDICT XVI

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, tomorrow Pope Benedict XVI will make his first papal visit to the United States of America. This is an exciting time for America and the over 64 million American Catholics to celebrate the relationship between our Nation and The Vatican and our continued work towards peace and humanitarian needs around the world.

During his trip, the Pope will visit New York City and Washington, D.C., where he will attend Mass at Nationals Park and Yankee Stadium, visit the World Trade Center site, and attend ceremonies and meetings at the White House with President George W. Bush. As an extraordinary sign of respect, the President will welcome the Pope at Andrew's Air Force Base in Maryland and escort him to the White House. Pope Benedict is just the third Pope to visit the United States, and this visit marks the 25th meeting between a sitting President and a Pope.

On behalf of the citizens of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina, I welcome Pope Benedict to the United States. I hope his visit will be a positive reminder of the importance of our relationships.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September the 11th.

Welcome Michael McCrory Wilson, who was born on April 11, 2008, at Lexington Medical Center, West Columbia, South Carolina.

SALUTING "HOMES FOR HOMETOWN HEROES"

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I'm delighted to rise today to salute "Homes for Hometown Heroes."

Many of us, my colleagues and myself, Members from as far away as California and Arizona, had the privilege of being in Houston, Texas, last evening at the Hyatt Regency to celebrate a very unique and special program where our hometown heroes, injured soldiers, were able to receive their own home by the largess and generosity of many heroes in our community.

Madam Speaker, it's a moving experience to see our soldiers coming in in-

jured but yet strong and resilient. What a privilege to be able to present to them a key to their own home.

I look forward to working with this caucus, the Democratic Caucus, the Republican Conference, and all of our Members to spread this message across America. One has said that all of what they've done, they deserve to be respected and responded to, a home for the injured soldiers, brain damaged, those who cannot walk in wheelchairs, to simply say "thank you." I look forward to announcing a posttraumatic stress disorder center in my own 18th Congressional District.

Last evening reinforced the fact that nothing is too great for those who have put their lives on the front line. I look forward to celebrating the hometown heroes.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LEE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING VICTIMS OF CRIME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, this week is National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and in the criminal justice system, Madam Speaker, we've come a long way to the time that we recognize the importance of victims and honor them for a whole week.

Before I came to Congress, I was working in the District Attorney's office in Houston, Texas. That was even before I was a judge for 22 years. And I often reflect on one crime victim that taught me more about the way the world really is than maybe any other person.

Many years ago I had the opportunity to prosecute a case, and I'm going to change the names because the victim's family still lives in the Houston area and are concerned about their privacy.

This young lady was married and had two twin boys. And she had a good career. She was in her early 20s, and she was going to the University of Houston at night to get a second degree.

And one evening she was driving home, and she had car trouble. The lights came on in the dash of her vehicle. So she pulled over to a service station that she thought was open. But the service station was not open, it was closed.

She got out of the car, and she started talking to who she thought was a service station attendant. But the individual, Luke Johnson, was not a service station attendant. He was just hanging around. He pulled out a pistol. He kidnapped this young lady, Lisa,